



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Tuberculosis Officer,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

AND

Public Analyst,

For the Year 1924

SMETHWICK TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED,
PRINTERS,
24, HUME STREET

I INDEX.

Ambulance Facilities	...	...	...	...	...	27
Analysis of Food Samples	...	...	...	...	...	45, 46
Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	31, 32
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	11, 15
Antitoxin, Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bacteriological Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	21
"Baby Week"	...	...	...	...	...	38
Bakchouses, Inspection of	...	...	...	...	...	47
Births and Birth-rates	...	...	...	...	...	5, 8, 9, 10, 30
Breast-fed Babies, Percentage of	...	...	...	...	...	35
Canal Boats, Inspection of	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cancer, Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	8, 10, 16
Causes of Death	...	...	...	...	...	Appendix
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	11, 15
Clinics and Treatment Centres	...	...	...	...	...	25, 26
Committees, Constitution of	...	...	...	...	...	3
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	39, 40
Cost of Public Health Services	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	45
Deaths and Death-rates	...	...	...	...	...	5, 8, 9, 10
Deaths of Infants	...	...	...	...	...	29
Deaths, Classified Causes of	...	...	...	...	...	Appendix
Density of Population	...	...	...	...	...	10
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	11, 13, 14
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	49
Dried Milk, Use of	...	...	...	...	...	35
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	11, 15
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	11, 14
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	48
Families, Number of Separate	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Supplies, Inspection of	...	...	...	...	...	43, 44
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	45, 46
Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	34
"Health Week"	...	...	...	...	...	38
Hospitals available for the District	...	...	...	...	...	26, 27
Hospital, Smithwick and Oldbury Joint Isolation	...	...	...	...	...	12
Houses, Number of Inhabited	...	...	...	...	...	8
HOUSING	...	...	...	...	...	49—51
Unfit Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	50
Remedy of Defects without Formal Notice...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Action under Statutory Powers	...	...	...	...	...	50, 51
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	8
Immunisation against Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	5, 8, 9, 10, 29, 30
Infectious Diseases, Prevalence of and Control over	...	...	...	...	...	11, 13, 14, 15
Infectious Diseases Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	12
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	8, 9
Inquest Cases	...	...	...	...	...	9
Institutions available for the District...	...	...	...	...	...	26, 27
Local Acts, Bye-laws, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	28
Marriages	...	...	...	...	...	8
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	...	...	...	...	...	30—37
Ante-natal Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	31, 32
Feeding of Infants	...	...	...	...	...	35, 36
Health Visitors, Work of	...	...	...	...	...	34
Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	...	...	...	34, 35, 36
Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	32, 33
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sewing Class	...	...	...	...	...	37
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	5, 8
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	43, 44
Milk and Cream Regulations...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Milk, Examination of, for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	...	15
Milk, Pasteurisation of	...	...	...	...	...	45
Milk (Mothers and Children) Order	...	...	...	...	...	37

Neo-Natal Deaths	5, 29
Notifications of Infectious Diseases	11
Nurses	34
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	30
Pneumonia	11, 15
Population	8, 10
Public Health Services, Cost of	7
Rateable Value	8
Respiratory Diseases	8, 10
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	45, 46
SANITARY ADMINISTRATION	39—51
Canal Boats	39
Complaints	39, 40
Defects found	42
Inspections	41
Notices Served	43
Scarlet Fever	11, 13
Sewing Class	37
Slaughterhouses	43, 44
Small Pox	15
Staff	4
SUMMARIES :—	
Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, etc., for the district	24, 25, 26, 27
Maternity and Child Welfare Statistics	30
Vital Statistics	10
Work done at Clinic for Chest Diseases	18
Toxin Antitoxin	14
TUBERCULOSIS	17—22
After-care Work	17
Chest Clinic	18, 19
Contacts	18, 19
Deaths and Death-rates	10, 20
Home Visiting	19
Hospital Accommodation at Holly Lane	17
Notifications	11, 20
Recreation of Sanatorium Patients	22
Sanatoria, Admissions and Discharges	21, 22
Sanatoria Accommodation	17
Shelters	17
Surgical Tuberculosis	17
Ultra-Violet Light Treatment	18, 19
Workshop at Holly Lane	17, 22
X-Ray Examinations	18
Typhoid Fever	11, 14
Vaccination Returns	15, 16
Veneral Diseases	22, 23
Vital Statistics	5, 8, 9, 10
Wards, Birth and Death Rates in various	10
Whooping Cough	6, 8
Zymotic Death-rates	10

County Borough of Smethwick.

The Health Committee.

(From November, 1923, to November, 1924).

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

His Worship the Mayor (ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.).

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR J. C. CRIPPS.

COUNCILLOR E. ADAMS, J.P. „ A. MORRIS.

„ E. T. BROWN. „ MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Members of the Health Committee together with the following Co-opted Members:—

MRS. E. T. BROWN.

MRS. E. GRIFFITHS.

MRS. F. CHAPMAN.

MRS. C. W. JONES.

MRS. JOHNSON.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR T. W. EVANS, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.).

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN.

„ A. M. WILLIETS, J.P.

„ MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW.

„ S. W. B. STEPHEN.

Oldbury Representatives :

COUNCILLOR W.T. DAVIES, J.P. COUNCILLOR H. H. ROBBINS.

„ W. PARKES, J.P.

„ C. THOMLINSON.

Smethwick Representatives on the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board.

His Worship the Mayor (ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.).

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW.

OBITUARY.

DR. W. F. MARSH JACKSON, J.P.,
Consulting Medical Officer of Health.
Died July 21st, 1924.

COUNCILLOR C. THOMLINSON.
Died July 3rd, 1924.

Health Department Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital:

J. BELL FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin), D.P.H. (Manchester).

Assistant Medical Officers:

RICHARD SANDILANDS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

GLADYS E. AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: J. FYLES, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

JOHN H. WRIGHT, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk: GEO. H. ROE, C.R.S.I.

Second Clerk: JAMES F. ROGERS, C.R.S.I.

Clerk for M. and C.W. Work: MISS WINIFRED M. COOMBES.

Junior Clerk: J. H. MASSEY.

Nursing Staff:*

MISS L. E. ROBERTS.

†MISS N. S. GRAY.

†MISS A. WRIGHT.

†MISS F. RICHARDS, C.R.S.I.

†MISS F. M. SULLIVAN.

†MISS L. W. WEALE, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor and Clerk to Tuberculosis Dispensary:

† MISS J. P. BATES.

Matron of Isolation Hospital: MISS F. E. WHITEHOUSE.

Public Analyst: JOSEPH LONES, F.I.C., F.C.S.

*The work of these Nurses is divided between the following Committees:—Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Education, and Mental Deficiency.

†These nurses hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

County Borough of Smethwick.

Public Health Department,
280, High Street, Smethwick.
June, 1925.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS FOR THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. SANDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1924.

As formerly, the tables given are comparable with those of previous years.

During the year 1924 there occurred among Smethwick residents a total of 798 deaths, which in a population of 78,790 persons gives a rate of 10.12 per 1,000 living. This was 0.68 points below the rate for 1923 which was 10.8; and 1.37 points lower than the five year average for 1919-1923 of 11.49. The rate for 1924, which represents a reduction of 51 deaths in number over 1923 and 82 over that of the five years average, has the distinction of being **the lowest general death-rate ever recorded for the Borough**. Of the total deaths 33.3 per cent. occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

With a total of 1,591 births registered during the year there occurred 119 deaths of infants under one year of age, representing an Infant Mortality Rate of 74.79 per 1,000 births. This rate shows an increase of 9.3 points over last year, but the experience has been general throughout the country (see table on page 9). The rate for 1924, is, however, nearly 7 points lower than the average for the five years 1919-1923, and with the exception of last year, is the lowest rate ever recorded for the Borough. An analysis of the causes of death under one year of age shows the increase in the rate to be due to respiratory diseases. The Neo-Natal deaths (i.e., those occurring in the first four weeks of life) represent 34 per cent. of the total deaths under one year, as compared with 46 per cent. for 1923.

The Birth-rate remained at 20.19 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 20.2 last year, and 21.3 for the previous year.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever showed a marked decline over last year, and Diphtheria, while still rather prevalent, had not the same virulent character as in the previous year.

Measles and Whooping Cough were fairly prevalent throughout the year, but there was a considerable reduction in the number of deaths from Measles. Whooping Cough, on the other hand, showed an increased mortality compared with 1923.

The notifications of Tuberculosis were slightly in excess of those of the previous year, but the deaths from lung tuberculosis dropped from 73 in 1923 to 53 in 1924. The deaths from other forms of the disease remained the same as in the previous year.

With regard to the above satisfactory state of affairs in an industrial town one cannot help feeling that a considerable amount of credit is due to medical practitioners working under the National Health Insurance Acts. The insured worker is now-a-days much more likely to consult his doctor at the beginnings of disease. Conditions come under observation earlier and prospects of cure and prolongation of life are naturally increased. I am indebted to the local members of the medical profession for the loyal way in which they have co-operated with the work of this Department.

It is worthy of note that the Corporation are planning to centralise many of the health activities of the town on "The Firs" estate, the generous gift of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd. The proposals embrace a Maternity Home, with Observation block for mothers and their infants; an Open-Air School; a modern Clinic for school work, maternity and child welfare work, and dental work, including an Orthopædic Centre. This scheme, when completed, should prove a great boon to the child population of the Borough.

Dr. Gladys Ainscow was appointed in April, 1924, to the post of Assistant Medical Officer of Health, which had been temporarily held by Dr. Agnes Robertson.

Below are appended some figures kindly supplied by the Borough Treasurer, relating to the expenditure on Public Health Services.

I should like to conclude by thanking my staff for their untiring efforts and devotion to duty throughout the year, and also the members of the Health Committee for their support and interest in the work of the Department. My special thanks are due to Councillor Bradshaw, the Chairman of the Health Committee, for his help and interest at all times. Our relations with other Departments of the Corporation have been of the best and we have on all occasions received every help and assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Sands, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. BELL FERGUSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

Summary of Estimates for the year ending 31st March, 1925.

					Amount.	Rate in £
					£	d.
GENERAL DISTRICT RATE.						
Notification of Infectious Diseases	...				90	.07147
Prevention of Infectious Disease and						
Bacteriological Examinations	...				713	.56616
Contribution to Smethwick and Oldbury						
Joint Hospital	...	...	...	2,242		1.78028
Contribution to Joint Smallpox Hospital						
Board	...	...	...	167		.13261
Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	1,160			.92111
Venereal Diseases	...	...	81			.06432
Rats Order, 1918	...	...	20			.01588
					<hr/> 4,473 <hr/>	<hr/> 3.55183 <hr/>
BOROUGH FUND.						
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	270		.21440
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2,724		2.16301
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	806		.64001
Medical Inspection of School Children			2,565			2.03676
					<hr/> 6,365 <hr/>	<hr/> 5.05418 <hr/>
Salaries (not otherwise charged)	...		2,541			2.01770
Loan charges (not otherwise charged)			822			.65298
					<hr/> 3,363 <hr/>	<hr/> 2.67068 <hr/>
Grand Totals	...		14,201			<hr/> 11.27669 <hr/>

These figures show that out of a total rate budgetted for of 17s. in the £, the estimated cost on the rates of the Public Health Services represented 11¼d. in the £.

Annual Report, 1924.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area: 1,929 acres.

Population: Census, 1921—75,757. Registrar-General's Estimate
Mid-year, 1924—78,790.

Number of inhabited houses: 15,947.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—16,366.

Rateable Value: £328,712 10s. 11d.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,160.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
BIRTHS: Legitimate	... ..	1,553	758	795
Illegitimate	... ..	38	19	19
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	1,591	777	814
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH-RATE: 20.19 per 1,000 of the population.

MARRIAGES: 628. Marriage-rate: 15.9 per 1,000.

DEATHS: Total, 798—Males 405, Females 393.

DEATH-RATE: 10.12 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth: From
Sepsis, 2; from other causes, 5.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age per 1,000 births:—Legitimate, 75.3; Illegitimate, 52.6; Total, 74.79.

DEATHS from:—

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Measles	2	0.02
Whooping Cough	12	0.15
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	12	0.15
Diphtheria	7	0.08
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Influenza	22	0.27
Cancer	95	1.20
Respiratory Diseases	148	1.87
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	0.67
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	0.17

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1924.

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	Causes of Death certified by Regd. Med. Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.49	0.44	7.3	75	92.3	6.6	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	19.4	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.03	1.12	0.08	0.45	0.40	9.2	80	92.5	6.9	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000)	18.9	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.50	0.38	6.2	71	93.3	5.5	1.2
London	18.7	12.1	0.01	—	0.29	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.36	0.44	8.4	69	91.3	8.6	0.1
SMETHWICK	20.1	10.1	—	—	0.02	—	0.15	0.08	0.27	0.43	7.5	74	91.6	8.4	—

The total deaths registered in the district was 557; 11 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 252 Smethwick residents died in other districts and have to be added to the number registered in the Borough. The nett deaths thus number 798, giving a death-rate of 10.12 per 1,000 of the population, which constitutes a new record for the Borough, being the lowest ever experienced.

It will be seen from the above table that Smethwick compares very favourably with other towns and with the country as a whole, and this favourable comparison shows an even further improvement over last year. It will be noted in the last column that in no instance was there an uncertified death, and that in the second last column the percentage of inquests where the cause of death was doubtful is higher than in England and Wales or in the groups of towns. This reflects credit on the local members of the medical profession, showing that they tend to notify the Coroner wherever there is the slightest cause for doubt.

There has been a further slight decline in the Birth-rate (20.19) compared with last year (20.2) and the previous year (21.3).

The number of marriages last year (654) showed a slight increase over 1922 (610), but this year the number has dropped to 628.

The Infant Mortality rate shows an increase over last year, but with that exception it is the lowest yet recorded for the Borough. On looking at the table at the head of this page it will be seen that this increase has been common to the country as a whole and that Smethwick compares favourably with experience elsewhere. On comparing the table of Infant Mortality during 1924 on page 29 with the similar table in my Report for 1923 (page 31) it will be noted that the increased mortality seems to be chiefly due to respiratory diseases (notably Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia) and Whooping Cough.

A table giving a detailed analysis of the causes of death, based on the "International List of Causes of Death," and of age and sex distribution will be found in the Appendix at the end of this Report, and a similar table relating to deaths of infants under one year appears on page

The mean age at death was 43.8 years, compared with 43.6 last year, and 41.18 in 1922.

The following table gives a comparison of the principal rates in the various wards of the Borough, from which it will be seen that Sandwell Ward in each instance gives higher rates than any other ward. In this connection it is interesting to note that although the density of population in this ward is given as 29.3 persons per acre, 108 acres are occupied by factories and works, which if deducted from the total acreage would give a figure of 39.8 persons per acre. The true density must be considerably greater owing to the daily influx of workers to the numerous factories in this ward. The rates in this ward are as a rule higher than in any other ward in the Borough.

COMPARISON OF RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS:—

Ward	Estimated Population	Total Acreage	Density	General Death-rate	Respiratory Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate
Spon Lane ...	12,999	515	25.2	8.7	1.3	54.0
Sandwell	12,078	411	29.3	11.4	3.3	83.5
Uplands	8,794	255	34.4	9.7	1.5	80.6
Bearwood ...	21,675	348	62.2	10.3	1.3	68.7
Victoria	11,927	176	67.7	9.7	1.6	79.4
Soho	11,317	224	50.5	10.6	2.2	82.0
Total ...	78,790	1929	40.8	10.12	1.8	74.7

REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS IN SMETHWICK DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS.

Year	Estimated population	Marriage rate per 1,000	Birth rate per 1,000	Death rate per 1,000	Infant mor- tality rate per 1,000 births	Zymotic death rate per 1,000	Death rates per 1,000 Respiratory diseases	Pulmonary tuber- culosis	Cancer
1900 ...	55,700	14.9	33.3	15.6	160	1.4	3.3	0.74	0.55
1901 ...	54,560	15.4	34.7	14.9	170	1.76	2.5	0.87	0.62
1902 ...	55,700	12.1	35.4	13.8	127	1.4	2.9	0.75	0.55
1903 ...	58,000	14.8	34.1	14.1	141.7	1.2	3.1	0.65	0.77
1904 ...	61,000	11.08	32.06	13.2	145.6	1.24	2.67	0.93	0.80
1905 ...	63,000	14.9	30.3	15.0	139	1.7	2.7	0.73	0.60
1906 ...	65,000	15.6	31.2	14.6	130	2.21	2.7	1.03	0.67
1907 ...	67,000	14.4	29.4	14.34	116	1.43	3.1	0.78	0.85
1908 ...	69,500	14.1	30.0	14.5	135	1.84	2.7	0.86	0.70
1909 ...	70,300	13.8	28.1	13.4	116	2.23	2.8	0.82	0.78
1910 ...	72,000	15.2	27.35	12.42	108	1.3	2.1	0.84	0.54
1911 ...	70,681	15.9	27.8	14.6	140	2.3	2.6	0.94	0.79
1912 ...	73,372	16.3	25.8	12.32	111	0.9	2.8	0.9	0.7
1913 ...	72,936	18.0	28.1	14.98	127	2.1	3.1	0.8	0.76
1914 ...	72,975	16.8	27.5	14.13	106	1.67	3.4	1.26	0.89
1915 ...	72,439	21.6	25.88	13.8	109.3	2.13	3.02	1.10	0.98
1916 ...	78,335	17.4	22.04	11.08	93.8	0.77	3.33	1.20	0.84
1917 ...	78,235	18.11	20.32	11.5	99.8	0.71	3.9	1.30	0.86
1918 ...	76,056	16.49	20.28	15.63	102.4	0.6	3.56	1.43	0.9
1919 ...	73,000	17.67	22.19	13.00	84.6	0.45	3.2	1.19	1.03
1920 ...	75,027	22.71	27.08	11.16	82.18	0.64	2.4	0.81	0.92
1921 ...	77,400	16.4	25.46	11.11	88.28	0.69	2.27	0.68	0.85
1922 ...	78,140	15.6	21.39	11.22	86.12	0.67	2.31	0.78	1.13
1923 ...	78,450	16.6	20.24	10.82	65.49	0.79	1.82	0.93	1.04
1924 ...	78,790	15.9	20.19	10.12	74.79	0.41	1.87	0.67	1.20

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1924.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													Cases admitted to Hospital.	TOTAL DEATHS.												
	AGE GROUPS.														AGE GROUPS.												
	All ages	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards		All ages	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	126	2	...	5	14	48	30	8	3	1	1	...	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	141	3	7	6	10	54	23	11	9	8	...	...	65	7	1	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	40	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	10	7	11	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	27	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	13	...	...	...	...	3	...	5	1	1	3	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Primary Pneumonia	89	10	6	6	4	6	4	9	17	9	11	3	...	...	18	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	4	8	1	...
Influenzal Pneumonia	32	2	2	1	...	1	3	1	...	8	4	9	1	...	12	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	5	2	...
Dysentery	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis :—																											
(a) Pulmonary...																											
	59	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	6	21	11	13	2	77	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	9	2
	51	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	9	18	11	8	2	43	25	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	12	5	5	...
	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	14	14	2
	110	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	15	39	22	21	4	120	53	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	20	14	14	2
(b) Other forms																											
	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	3	...	...	—	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
	10	...	1	3	1	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	10	...	3	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	2	...
	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	...
	18	...	1	3	2	1	3	3	...	5	2	14	...	3	1	2	...	1	...	2	2	1	2	...
GRAND TOTALS	618	44	17	23	31	31	124	66	51	109	54	56	12	282	108	1	4	5	4	...	5	1	4	26	22	30	6

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1924.

	Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1923.				Number of Cases Admitted during 1924.				Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1924.				Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1924.			
	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.
SMETHWICK :	1	...	10	11	1	4	59	64	2	4	64	70	...	...	5	5
	...	...	13	13	5	7	53	65	4	6	62	72	1	1	4	6
OLDBURY :	...	...	6	6	2	1	5	8	2	1	11	14	...	...	...	...
	...	...	2	2	...	3	11	14	...	3	10	13	...	...	3	3
OLD HILL :	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...

Totals	1	...	31	32	8	15	129	152	8	14	148	170	1	1	12	14

SCARLET FEVER :—The following complications occurred :

	Cases	percentage
Adenitis
Arthritis
Albuminuria
Nephritis
Otorrhoea
Rhinorrhoea

DIPHTHERIA :—The following complications occurred :

	Cases	Percentage
Paralysis of various forms (chiefly Palatal)	...	...
Tracheotomy was performed in	2 cases, or 2·4 per cent.	...
Over two-thirds of the cases had received Antitoxin before admission.	...	...

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year under review the incidence of Scarlet Fever has shown a further marked decline. The cases were for the most part mild and no death occurred. The cases notified numbered 126, and of these 64, or 50.7 per cent. were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane. Cases in which ear or nose discharge have occurred while in hospital are notified to the Health Department and "followed up" by the School Nurses lest there should be a recrudescence of the discharge.

There were 67 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age, compared with 128 last year. The schools chiefly affected were Bearwood Road, Brasshouse Lane and Waterloo Road.

The incidence of, and mortality from Scarlet Fever during the past ten years is as follows:—

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1915	253	3.5	4	1.5
1916	169	2.2	4	2.3
1917	105	1.3	1	0.9
1918	52	0.7	1	1.9
1919	145	2.0	5	3.4
1920	514	6.8	2	0.4
1921	426	5.5	3	0.7
1922	270	3.4	2	0.7
1923	207	2.6	4	1.9
1924	126	1.5	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

The incidence of Diphtheria remained at about the same level as in the previous year, the cases numbering 141, as against 138. During the past five years the disease has been consistently prevalent in the town, although during the year under review it appears to have assumed a somewhat milder character and only 7 deaths occurred, compared with 19 in 1923. There were 74 cases in children of school age—the same number as in the previous year—29 of these occurred in Waterloo Road School, 10 in Central School, and the remainder distributed fairly generally among the other schools in the Borough. In the case of Waterloo Road School a thorough investigation was carried out and the source of infection apparently located in a number of "carriers" in one class.

The incidence of and mortality from Diphtheria during the past ten years is as follows:—

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1915	58	0.8	9	15.5
1916	57	0.7	5	8.7
1917	56	0.7	6	10.7
1918	70	1.0	8	11.4
1919	94	1.29	6	6.4
1920	177	2.3	16	9.0
1921	132	1.7	9	6.8
1922	119	1.5	10	8.4
1923	138	1.75	19	13.7
1924	141	1.78	7	4.9

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners in the Borough, 219 phials of 8,000 units being issued during the year, against 253 last year, and 121 in 1922.

It is to be regretted that mothers are not taking advantage of the facilities offered to protect their children against this dangerous disease by Toxin-Antitoxin inoculation. This should be done between the age of 6 months and 12 months. I would again urge that Toxin-Antitoxin should be placed at the service of the medical practitioners in the Borough free of charge for prophylaxis in the same way as Antitoxin is given for curative purposes.

If we could secure an increased number of sessions at the Infant Welfare Centres with a corresponding diminution in the numbers attending per session we might be able to carry out more educational work amongst the mothers. An enlightened community which would embrace the protection afforded by Toxin-Antitoxin to its juvenile population could almost abolish Diphtheria from its midst.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Three cases were notified during the year. Two of these were contracted outside the Borough; one man who probably drank contaminated water in the Isle of Wight, and a second man who ate infected shell-fish in the market of a neighbouring town. These were cases of Typhoid Fever. The third case occurred in a nurse who developed infection with *b. Paratyphosus B*. The origin of the infection in this case was not traced.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Thirteen cases were notified during the year, of which 7 were admitted to hospitals in Birmingham. In no case did death supervene. For age groups of these cases see page 11. During the year the neighbouring City of Birmingham had a very large number of cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

No case was notified during the year.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Two cases were notified during the year, both being removed to hospital, where they recovered. These cases come under the care of the Smethwick Cripples' Union during convalescence for electricity, massage, and remedial exercises.

PNEUMONIA.

The cases of Primary Pneumonia notified during the year numbered 89, and of Influenzal Pneumonia 32. Notifications and deaths during the last six years are as follows:—

Year.	Primary Pneumonia.		Influenzal Pneumonia.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1919	75	45	62	64
1920	97	46	26	10
1921	70	49	8	3
1922	103	37	51	26
1923	141	37	27	14
1924	89	18	32	12

Cases are visited by the nurses and disinfection is undertaken when requested. Leaflets on the disease are distributed and a polyvalent vaccine of proved antigenic properties offered to medical practitioners for use early in cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia.

SMALLPOX.

No case was notified during the year. Several notifications were received of contacts arriving from ships or from other towns and these persons were kept under observation.

The members of the staff at the Health Department and at the Fever Hospital, Holly Lane were re-vaccinated in 1923.

During the year 1924 there were 3,765 cases of Small-pox in England and Wales, with 13 deaths.

The Vaccination Officer's Return for the year ended 30th June, 1912, shewed 18.1 per cent. of conscientious objectors. This figure gradually rose to 34.4 per cent. in 1921, and has since fallen to 25.0 per cent. for 1924.

The public would be well advised to avail themselves of the protection afforded by vaccination for the infant population.

VACCINATION.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year ending 30th June,	Births	Vaccinations	Insusceptible	Conscientious objections	Died unvaccinated	Postponed by medical certificate	Gone to other districts	Gone— no address	Outstanding	Percentage of conscientious objections*
1924	1,448	958	2	343	76	13	15	9	32	25·0
1923	1,535	984	—	428	62	15	6	10	30	29·0
1922	1,759	1,024	2	561	101	14	7	17	33	33·8
1921	1,884	1,046	5	608	119	32	10	20	44	34·4
1920	1,944	1,153	2	549	118	44	17	25	36	29
1919	1,438	816	—	421	104	20	21	23	33	31
1918	1,494	853	6	418	116	40	16	11	34	30
1917	1,689	1,042	3	425	120	36	15	20	28	27
1916	1,762	1,091	1	430	120	34	13	36	37	26
1915	1,994	1,211	3	472	153	64	15	54	22	25·6

* In calculating these percentages, the number dying unvaccinated has been deducted from the total number of births.

CANCER.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of the population.
1910	39	0.54
1911	56	0.79
1912	52	0.70
1913	59	0.76
1914	65	0.89
1915	71	0.98
1916	66	0.84
1917	69	0.86
1918	61	0.90
1919	75	1.03
1920	71	0.92
1921	66	0.85
1922	89	1.13
1923	82	1.04
1924	95	1.20

The above table shows the increase in the mortality from Cancer. Educational efforts have been continued amongst the public and the midwives by means of leaflets pointing out the necessity for early diagnosis and the imperative need for patients to consult a medical man early when any suspicious signs are observed.

In addition to the apparatus for the treatment of cancer by means of powerful X-Rays (Erlangen treatment) available at the Skin hospital, John Bright Street, Birmingham, a new apparatus has been provided at the Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, under the charge of Dr. Russell Green. I understand that this apparatus is available for all classes of patients, including the private patients of general practitioners.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR 1924.

SANATORIUM ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation for the reception of early types of tuberculous patients includes 20 beds at Romsley Hill Sanatorium, near Halesowen—8 beds for females, and 12 for males.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation for hospital cases is provided in "D" Block at the Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, and consists of 10 beds for females and 12 beds for males. This block has recently been re-decorated outside and in.

Chronic and advanced cases are admitted where satisfactory isolation cannot be obtained at home.

In addition 12 chalets are available, which are used as required for cases who are improving.

SHELTERS.

Ten shelters have been in use during the year. Owing to gales considerable damage was done to four of these and the shelters are being recalled for repair and general overhaul. This work is carried out at the carpenter's workshop at Holly Lane Hospital.

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangement whereby the Corporation sanctioned six beds for the prolonged treatment of surgical tuberculosis has continued. A very severe case of lupus has remained during the year at the Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Hospital, Alton, Hants. In addition to four cases remaining from last year, two other cases were admitted to "The Woodlands," Northfield, and four were discharged during the year.

AFTER-CARE WORK.

After-care work has been carried out by the staff of the Chest Clinic and the following is a summary of the work done:

Patients receiving loan of beds and bedding	17
Patients receiving loan of shelters, including beds ...	10
Advanced cases on domiciliary treatment receiving loan of bed-pans and air cushions	18
Cases receiving grants of milk	16
Jerseys loaned to insured persons receiving Sana- torium Treatment	2

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AT THE CHEST CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1924.

	Males.	Females.	Children under 16 Years.	Total.
Number of New Cases	83	93	134	313
Number of Re-attendances	740	891	851	2482
Number of Insured Persons commencing treatment at the Clinic ...	20	9	—	29
Ditto at Romsley Hill Sanatorium ...	31	12	—	43
Ditto at Holly Lane Sanatorium ...	37	3	—	40
New Cases taken on at the Clinic for Observation or Treatment ...	51	36	39	126
New Cases passed for Sanatoria ...	46	27	9	82
Referred to other Institutions ...	7	11	22	40
Old Patients re-examined	106	96	72	274
Chest Clinic Cases transferred to Sanatoria	39	24	10	73
Sanatoria Cases transferred to Chest Clinic	23	15	2	40
Home Visits :—				
Tuberculosis Officer				54
Nurses				2362
Special After-care visits				52
Patients receiving injection treatment—attendances	435	419	374	1228
Patients receiving ultra-violet light treatment—attendances (Oct.–Dec., 1924	22	36	134	192
Contacts :—				
Number of Infecting Cases ...	30	17	2	49
Number of Contacts examined ...	11	29	53	93
Number found tuberculous ...	1	3	2	6
Number suspected	4	8	12	24
Number found non-tuberculous ...	6	18	39	63
Number of Contacts re-examined...	5	12	15	32
X-Ray Examinations				143
Surgical Dressings				155
Blanket Baths				164
TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE CLINIC :				2938
Old and New Cases				
Average Weekly Attendance... ..				61.2

ATTENDANCES AT THE CHEST CLINIC.

New patients are seen by appointment only, on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases which are taken on for observation or treatment at the Clinic are asked to attend on Tuesday or Friday mornings between 10 and 1 o'clock. Patients who have received treatment or who cannot conveniently attend in the mornings, are seen on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 to 8 o'clock.

X-ray examinations take place on Monday evenings commencing at 5 p.m.

Ultra-Violet Light Treatment is undertaken on Monday afternoons, and Wednesday and Friday mornings.

On days when the Clinic is nominally closed the nurses are engaged in work on the district.

During the year 1924, 313 persons have applied at the Chest Clinic for advice and treatment. Of these 113 were insured under the National Health Insurance Act.

TABLE II.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Insured Persons	80	33	113
Dependents of Insured Persons	75	117	192
Uninsured Persons	2	6	8
	<u>157</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>313</u>

TABLE III.—AGE AND SEX CONSTITUTION OF THE 313 PERSONS WHO WERE EXAMINED AT THE CHEST CLINIC FOR ADVICE AND TREATMENT.

	Ages Sex	0-5 M F.	5 10 M F	10-15 M F.	15-25 M.F.	25-35 M F	35-45 M F	45 up M.F.	All ages Ttl.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis									
Definite.....		1 -	- 1	- 2	7 10	13 10	13 6	11 5	79
Suspected....		1 3	5 4	5 5	5 10	5 5	4 5	- 2	59
Tuberculosis									
Other forms		1 -	2 1	- 2	1 -	1 1	2 -	- -	11
Non-Tuberculous		5 9	26 26	25 9	12 8	7 16	5 9	2 8	164
Totals... ..									
		8 9	33 32	30 18	25 28	26 32	24 20	13 15	313

VISITS.

During the year the Tuberculosis Officer paid 54 visits to patients in their own homes. The nurses paid 2,362 visits, including 52 visits in connection with the after-care of patients. It has been the aim of the staff of the Clinic to foster a friendly feeling in these visits and to obviate as much as possible any suggestion of officialism or inspection.

CONTACTS.

Ninety-three persons living in infected houses and in intimate contact with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been carefully examined and dealt with during the year. Of these, 6 were found to be definitely suffering from the disease, 63 were regarded as being free from active tuberculosis, and 24 are still under observation. The number of contacts re-examined during the year was 32.

TABLE IV.—“CONTACTS.”

No. of infecting cases			No. of con- tacts examined.			No. found tuberculous.			No. suspected.			No. of non- tuberculous		
M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
30	17	2	11	29	53	1	3	2	4	8	12	6	18	39
<u>49</u>			<u>93</u>			<u>6</u>			<u>24</u>			<u>63</u>		

NOTIFICATIONS.

One hundred and twenty-eight notifications of Tuberculosis were received through the Medical Officer of Health during the year. There were 110 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 18 of other forms of the disease. The following table shows the notifications received and the attack-rate for each of the past ten years:—

		Notifications received:		Attack Rate per 1,000 of the population.	
		Pulmonary.	Other forms	Pulmonary.	Other forms.
1915	.....	229	103	3.1	1.4
1916	.....	204	117	2.6	1.4
1917	.....	206	126	2.6	1.6
1918	.....	194	80	2.5	1.0
1919	.....	260	60	3.5	0.8
1920	.....	146	31	1.9	0.4
1921	.....	88	14	1.1	0.18
1922	.....	112	17	1.4	0.2
1923	.....	80	18	1.02	0.2
1924	.....	110	18	1.39	0.2

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 67, of which 49 were notified cases, and 18 not notified. The ratio of unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 26.8 per cent., against 29.8 per cent. last year.

The following table shows the total NEW CASES during the year, i.e., all PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS and also other NEW cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health; and the deaths during the year:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	1	1	3	6	—	—	1	5
5 to 10	2	2	5	4	—	2	—	1
10 to 15	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15 to 20	6	10	1	1	2	3	1	—
20 to 25	9	4	2	—	1	2	—	1
25 to 35	16	16	2	2	5	8	1	1
35 to 45	11	15	2	—	9	5	1	—
45 to 55	10	6	—	1	5	2	—	1
55 to 65	4	3	—	1	4	3	—	1
65 upwards	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	64	59	16	19	28	25	4	10

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

TABLE SHEWING ADMISSIONS to, and DISCHARGES from, SANATORIA during the Twelve Months ended December 31st, 1924.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1923.				Number of Cases admitted during 1924.				Cases discharged or transferred to the Chest Clinic.				Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1924.				Number of Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females
Romsley Hill	1	...	1	2	32	24	3	59	23	16	3	42	6	8	1	15	4	...
Holly Lane	4	4	1	9	37	15	8	60	29	8	8	45	8	6	...	14	4	6
Yardley Road	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Heath	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
The Woodlands, Northfield	...	...	4	4	...	...	2	2	...	...	4	4	...	...	2	2	...	...
Preston Hall	1	..	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Totals	7	5	7	19	70	39	13	122	54	25	15	94	15	14	4	33	8	6

The average length of stay in the wards at Holly Lane was 13.2 weeks, against 10.8 last year.

CONDITION OF PATIENTS ON DISCHARGE (ALL INSTITUTIONS).

Markedly Improved	...	...	...	...	...	30
Improved	...	...	...	...	...	25
In Statu Quo	...	...	...	...	...	25
Worse	...	...	...	...	...	14
Died	...	...	...	...	...	14
						<hr/> 108 <hr/>

RECREATION.

Contributions of books, periodicals, etc., for the patients' library will be welcome from anyone reading this Report. Through the kindness of Mr. H. V. Worwood and the Smethwick Insurance Committee, newspapers and periodicals are supplied weekly to the patients at the Hospital.

We have to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., and the Chairman of the Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee (Councillor T. W. Evans, J.P.) for the interest they have taken in the wireless receiving set installed at Holly Lane owing to their efforts. This set has been much appreciated by the patients and has helped to while away many an hour for them. We have also to thank Mr. L. T. Plummer who voluntarily gave of his expert advice, time and help for the maintenance of the wireless apparatus.

The Carpenter's Shop has continued to be useful, and the women patients have carried on with their small stock of poultry.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, treatment is available for Smethwick patients at the General Hospital, Birmingham. The Centre is open for men and women on the following days:—

Monday	.....	Men	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.
Tuesday	.....	Women	10.0 to 12.0 noon.
		Men	10.0 to 12.0 noon.
<i>New cases only:</i>			
		Women	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.
		Men	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.
Wednesday	.....	Men	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.
Thursday	.....	Women	5.0 to 7.0 p.m.
Friday	.....	Men	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.

TREATMENT.

Men: Every day, 3.0 to 7.0 p.m. for Irrigation.

Men: Wednesday and Saturday Morning.

Women: Monday Morning and Afternoon.

Women: Friday Morning.

The number of Smethwick residents treated during the year was 64, compared with 61 last year, 74 in 1922, 73 in 1921, 120 in 1920, and 143 in 1919. The report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre for the year under review shows:—

A. Number of Smethwick persons dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
								—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
								—

B. Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick 1411

C. Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick 84

D. Number of doses of Salvarsan substitute given 239

Pathological examinations made during the year 1924 relating to persons residing in Smethwick:—

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
For Wassermann reaction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
								—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
								—

Eight enquiries in connection with the scheme were received at the Health Office during the year. Any member of the public is confidentially and courteously received and given full information. Enamel signs calling attention to the necessity for immediate treatment and giving information as to the treatment centre are permanently fixed in all public conveniences throughout the Borough.

Two requests for Salvarsan substitute were received from local practitioners during the year, and complied with.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Arrangements for the necessary routine bacteriological examinations for the town are made with the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Birmingham. The number of specimens examined during the year, and the results are set out below:—

Nature of Specimen.					Number. Positive. Negative.		
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli—							
Suspects	...	...	...	...	372	95	277
Contacts	...	...	...	...	88	20	68
Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli—							
Contacts	...	...	...	...	84	30	54
Exudate from Eyes for Gonococci	...			...	6	6	—
Faeces for Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	334	70	264
Milk for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	13	—	13
Milk for Bacterial Count	...	...	...	...	31	—	—
Totals					898	221	677

In addition to the above 260 swabs were examined for Diphtheria Bacilli at the Hospital, Holly Lane, from patients in the hospital, 36 giving a positive, and 224 a negative result. Two consecutive negative swabs are required before a patient is discharged.

Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements and Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL:—The Smethwick District Nursing Association, The Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, 2, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, has one nurse-matron and two nurses, who undertake general nursing among the poorer inhabitants in the district. A grant of £25 per annum is made to the Association by the Council for emergency nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when for some reason the nurses of the Health Department cannot attend.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—No service is provided, but a panel of handy-women is kept at the Health Office and their services utilised in certain cases.

MIDWIVES.

Twenty-one midwives reside in the Borough, and a total of 38 notified their intention to practice in the area during the year.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two School Clinics are provided, one at 95, Soho Street, Six Ways, and one at Smethwick Hall Schools, Devonshire Road. The days and times of attendance are as follows:—

TREATMENT CLINICS:—

Six Ways: Monday, 2.30—5; Tuesday, 2.30—5; Wednesday, 2.30—5; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Tuesday, 9.30—1; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

INSPECTION CLINICS:—

Six Ways: Friday, 9.30—1.

Smethwick Hall: Thursday, 9.30—1.

EYE CLINIC:—

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 2—5; Thursday, 2—5.

IONISATION CLINIC:—

Six Ways: Tuesday, 10—12.30.

CLEANSING STATION (for Scabies, etc.):—

Six Ways: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 2.30—5.

DENTAL CLINIC:—(To open early in 1925).

Six Ways: Every day from 9.30—5, except Monday and Thursday afternoons. For school children age 5—7 only.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:—

No. 1—Baptist Hall, Rawlings Road; Monday, 2—4 p.m.

No. 2—95, Soho Street; Thursday, 2—4 p.m.

No. 3—St. Stephen's Hall, Sydenham Road; Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.

No. 4—Smethwick Hall School, Devonshire Rd.; Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.

No. 5—Oldbury Rd., Congregational Church Hall, Friday, 2—4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC:—

Chest Clinic, behind Council House, Smethwick; Saturday, 10—1.

CHEST CLINIC, BEHIND COUNCIL HOUSE:—

New cases seen by appointment on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases taken on for observation or treatment attend on Tuesdays or Fridays, between 10 and 1, or by appointment on Tuesdays from 6—8 p.m.

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC:—

Chest Clinic: Monday, 3—5; Wednesday, 9.30—1; Friday, 9.30—1.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS:—

Chest Clinic: Monday evenings from 5 p.m. by appointment.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS :—

General Hospital, Birmingham :

			Men.	Women.
Monday	...	...	4—6 p.m.	—
Tuesday	...	..	10—12 noon	10—12 noon.
			(New cases only)	
			4—6 p.m.	4—6 p.m.
Wednesday	...	...	4—6 p.m.	—
Thursday	...	...	—	5—7 p.m.
Friday	...	...	4—6 p.m.	—

TREATMENT.

Men : Every day from 3 to 7 p.m. for Irrigation.
Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Women : Monday mornings and afternoons and Friday mornings.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS :—

Holly Lane Hospital: 22 beds for advanced and chronic cases, and 12 beds in chalets.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium (Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund): 20* beds reserved for Smethwick patients.

For Surgical Tuberculosis : Authority given to send up to 6 cases to "The Woodlands," Northfield, or the Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

(2) MATERNITY :—

Two beds reserved for Puerperal Fever cases at the Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

(3) CHILDREN :—See below under "Other Institutions."

(4) FEVER :—

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (total 60 beds). Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases only.

(5) SMALLPOX :—

South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital, at Bagnall, near Stoke-on-Trent.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None at present.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

- (a) For Infectious Diseases : Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee have motor ambulance which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (Telephone : Smethwick 159).
- (b) For Non-Infectious and Accident cases : Town Ambulance kept at the Fire Station, Rolfe Street, Smethwick (Telephone Smethwick 22).

Other Institutions available for the District.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, STEELHOUSE LANE, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department, open daily from 9—10 a.m.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BATH ROW, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open at 9 a.m. daily.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department in Steelhouse Lane, open daily from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. (except Sundays).

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, UPPER PRIORY, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.
Special cases seen on Tuesdays at 6.30 and Thursdays at 3.30 p.m.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL, 15, EASY ROW, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open 9—10 a.m. daily (except Wednesday), and every afternoon from 2—3 o'clock.

SKIN AND URINARY HOSPITAL, JOHN BRIGHT STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday from 1.30 to 3 p.m.

EAR AND THROAT HOSPITAL, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturday) from 9—12 noon.

EYE HOSPITAL, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients seen daily from 9—10 a.m.

ORTHOPÆDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL, NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturdays) from 2 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Patients are seen in first instance on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.

DENTAL HOSPITAL, 132, GREAT CHARLES STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Hours, 9 to 10.15 daily.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY, CAPE HILL BRANCH, SMETHWICK :—

Surgery Hours, 2 to 4 p.m. daily (except Wednesdays).

Local Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., relating to Public Health, in force in the County Borough of Smethwick.

LOCAL ACT.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1901.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Washhouses Acts—Adopted 11th Sept., 1885.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—Adopted 10th Oct., 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Adopted 14th Nov., 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—Adopted 10th March, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—the following parts adopted 18th Feb., 1908—Part II., Sections 17 to 33; Part III., Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, 49 to 51; Part IV., Sections 52 to 66 and Section 68; Part V., the whole part; Part X., the whole part.

BYE-LAWS.

Street Cleansing and Nuisances, 1856.

Slaughter-houses, 1893.

Nuisances, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1921.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1924.

29

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 w'k.	1-2 w'ks.	2-3 w'ks.	3-4 w'ks.	Total under 4 w'ks.	1-2 m'ths	2-3 m'ths	3-4 m'ths	4-5 m'ths	5-6 m'ths	6-7 m'ths	7-8 m'ths	8-9 m'ths	9-10 m'ths	10-11 m'ths	11-12 m'ths	Total under 1 year
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Streptococcal Septicæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Convulsions with Teething	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pericarditis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho-pneumonia	1	..	1	1	3	4	1	2	..	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	13
Inflammation of Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	3	1	2	1	3	2	5	1	26
Infective Euteritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
Gastro-enteritis	1	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dyspepsia	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Intestinal Obstruction	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Acute Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pemphigus Neonatorum	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Cong. Malformation of Heart	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Other Cong. Malformations	1	1	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Birth	19	2	1	1	23	2	3	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	28
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Icterus Neonatorum	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis	2	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Injury at Birth	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidentally Suffocated in bed	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Injury by Fall	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Totals	25	6	6	4	41	14	8	10	7	3	7	3	8	6	11	1	119

BIRTHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 1,553.
 Rate, 75·3.
 Illegitimate 38.
 Rate, 52·6.
 DEATHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate infants 117.
 Rate, 52·6.
 Illegitimate infants 2.
 Rate, 74·79.
 Total 119.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1,553; (2) Illegitimate, 38; (3) Total 1,591.

Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

(1) Live births, 1,416; (2) Still births, 31; (3) Total, 1,447.*

(1) By midwives, 1,333; (2) By parents and doctors, 114.

*In addition to this number particulars of 130 births notified to the Medical Officers of Health of adjoining areas, and relating to Smethwick residents were transferred to this office.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number: (1) Legitimate, 117; (2) Illegitimate, 2; (3) Total, 119.

Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate, 75.3; (2) Illegitimate, 52.6; (3) Total, 74.79.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth:

(1) From Sepsis, 2; (2) From other causes, 5.

The maternal death-rate works out at 4.4 per 1,000 births, compared with 6.9 in 1923, 1.7 in 1922, and 4.5 in 1921. The rate for England and Wales for 1923 was 3.60 per 1,000.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified: 27; Genuine cases, 13; Non-genuine, 14.

Cases treated by the Health Department Nurses: 21.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital (including cases referred by the Nurses): 4.

Cases resulting in impairment of vision: 2—both eyes slightly defective in one case and left eye of one case.

Exudate from the eyes examined in six instances; Gonococci found in six cases.

Notifications for past years:—

1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917
27	31	32	34	61	43	54	49

The visits paid to Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases by the nurses during the year numbered 392.

It was not necessary to call in the assistance of the District Nursing Association during the year.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC (Dr. G. Ainscow reports as follows):—

It is a disappointing fact that, notwithstanding the wonderful progress which has been made in the saving of infant lives during recent years, there has been little or no improvement in the number of deaths of women due to childbirth. Over 3,000 women have died per annum in England and Wales during the last 10 years as the direct result of the fulfilment of the perfectly normal function of childbirth. Smethwick has had its full share of these deaths. Not only have we to lament the untimely deaths of these 3,000 women in the prime of life and in the fulfilment of their highest function, but we have to deplore an untold amount of misery inflicted on thousands of other women who, although they escape with their lives from this ordeal of childbirth, carry with them through the rest of their lives injury and ill-health acquired during the time of pregnancy and childbirth. This must be a matter of grave concern to all interested in the welfare of women, and the question naturally arises, "What are the causes of this deplorable condition of things?" Sir George Newman replies, "There can be no doubt that it is the neglect of the most elementary precautions and investigations during the period of pregnancy which accounts for the little progress made in the reduction of maternal mortality and ill-health." It is indeed a remarkable fact that, of all "illnesses" childbirth is the most clearly foreseen and yet it is the one **LEAST ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR**. The usual course is for an expectant mother to "book" with her doctor or midwife about the 6th or 7th month. Unless some urgent symptom arises she rarely thinks it necessary to see the doctor or midwife again until labour commences. She leaves the issue until the eleventh hour and "chances the hazard of the occasion"—an occasion fraught with grave risk and terrible possibilities. Yet most of the conditions which give rise to risk and danger at the time of labour can be clearly foreseen and adequately prepared for if an investigation is made and supervision exercised during the months of pregnancy. It is not too much to say that it is the duty which a pregnant woman owes to herself, her child, and her husband, to submit herself to the only safe method of control of the event, namely, **SYSTEMATIC ANTE-NATAL SUPERVISION**.

The **ANTE-NATAL CLINIC** has been established in order that pregnant women may report themselves, be examined and the proper course of the forthcoming labour anticipated and gauged. Early recognition and treatment of the many conditions which make labour hazardous is by this means assured. Thus many of the risks may be entirely removed and others provided for in such a way as to reduce them to a minimum. "Forewarned is forearmed."

Great obstacles in the way of the ante-natal clinic are prejudice and old fashioned ideas. It is often the woman who has had "as good as fourteen" who has the greatest prejudice against her daughter's attendance at the ante-natal clinic. Patience, education, and the co-operation of doctors and midwives will, in time, remove most of these obstacles.

It is a matter for congratulation that the numbers attending the ante-natal clinic are steadily increasing, and it is hoped that, as the educational propaganda becomes operative and the old fashioned prejudice dies out, the results of ante-natal work will be seen in healthier and safer motherhood in Smethwick.

Besides the examination and care of the mother, instruction is given at the ante-natal clinic to the expectant mother in the care of herself and infant and in the principles of breast feeding. It is not generally known that much of the inability to breast feed infants is due to the lack of knowledge of the principles underlying this function rather than to inherent disability and to the "circumstances of modern life."

Instruction is also given in the making of up-to-date and hygienic baby clothes, and several model sets are always on exhibition. On Tuesday afternoon a sewing class is held for the purpose of giving instruction to mothers and expectant mothers, in the making of these up-to-date garments. Patterns of such garments are always to be had.

It may be noted that the proper examination of a pregnant woman and the investigation of her case is, of necessity, a rather lengthy process. It follows that relatively few patients can receive proper attention at one session. Up to now it has only been found possible to arrange for one session per week (held on Saturday morning from 10 till 1). It is hoped that, in view of the importance of the work and the increasing numbers attending, it may be found possible to arrange a second session on one of the afternoons in the week.

Below will be found a statement of the number of attendances made at the ante-natal clinic since it was established in 1920:—

1920	...	...	...	...	...	42
1921	...	...	...	...	...	107
1922	...	...	...	...	...	127
1923	...	...	...	...	...	241
1924	...	...	...	...	...	275

MIDWIVES.

During the year 38 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these, 21 were trained and 17 were bona-fide midwives. One midwife left the district and one died during the year.

A total of 1,099 births were attended solely by midwives, being 82.6 per cent. of the total births notified. Thus a very large number of the births in Smethwick are attended solely by midwives (see above). It is therefore essential that the midwives should keep as proficient as possible with regard to their work. They are encouraged to attend lectures at the Maternity Hospital in Birmingham. Several short talks were given to them on urine testing, temperature taking and breast feeding at the Health Department, Smethwick, during the year. A small outfit for testing urine can be obtained from the Health Department, and a large easily read clinical thermometer with a red line where the temperature of 100.4 is marked can be obtained by the midwife at the Health Office at cost price. Each midwife is visited as a routine practice at least once every three months by the health visitors and Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Her bag, register and temperature book are inspected.

To encourage the midwives in ante-natal care of their patients it is proposed to ask them to keep an ante-natal register, provided by the Health Department. This register, if properly kept, ensures that the midwife will make certain enquiries and observations regarding the patient during the ante-natal period and will make a record of the same. Every midwife is urged to send her cases to the ante-natal clinic and she receives a written report and advice on each case seen from the Assistant Medical Officer of Health. If it is found necessary to send a midwife's case to hospital for confinement, the midwife receives the fee of £1 1s. 0d. in order to compensate her for the loss of her case. During the year the number who received this fee was four.

Medical aid was summoned in 126 cases by the midwives, the doctor's fees being paid by the Corporation in 60 cases. The complications for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

MOTHER :—

Breech presentation	...	...	...	...	8
Torn perineum	...	...	...	...	16
Uterine inertia	...	...	...	...	3
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	7
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	...	23
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	10
Retained placenta	...	...	...	...	10
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	...	2
Feebleness	...	...	...	...	3
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	...	3
Obstructed labour	...	...	...	...	1
Prolapse of uterus	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	22

CHILD :—

Premature	...	...	...	...	5
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1
Discharging Eye	...	...	...	...	3
Spina bifida	...	...	...	...	1
Feebleness	...	...	...	...	1
Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	1

Routine visits paid to midwives	.....	100
Visits in connection with Puerperal Fever	...	15

Number of notices received re:—

Intention to practice	...	...	38
Sending for medical help	...	...	126
Attendance at Stillbirths (under C.M.B. Rules)	...	...	19
Attendance at Stillbirths (under Notification of Births Act)	...	...	26
Death of mother or child	...	...	3
Cessation of breast-feeding	...	...	12
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	1

HEALTH VISITORS.

In practice the town is divided into five districts, to each of which one Health Visitor is allotted. Her duties include:—

- School visiting and attendance at medical inspection.
- Following up certain cases until treatment is completed.
- Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre for her district and home-visiting of children who are attending.
- Routine visiting of new births notified.
- Routine visiting of children from 1 to 5 years.
- Visiting tuberculous patients.
- Attendance in rotation at the Cleansing Centre.
- Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinic.
- Visiting expectant mothers.
- Visiting and treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- Routine inspection of midwives.
- Investigation of cases for grants of milk at reduced price.
- Visiting mentally defectives in the area.
- Visiting children of war pensioners when requested by the War Pensions Committee.
- Visits in connection with non-notifiable infectious diseases, i.e., Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc., etc.

The total number of visits paid by these five Health Visitors during the year is 24,256. This is a great improvement on last year when the number was 17,257.

On November 27th, 1924, Dr. Creaser, from the Ministry of Health, visited the Health Department, Smethwick, and inspected the work done in regard to Maternity and Child Welfare. She considered that the Infant Welfare Centres had too many mothers and babies attending to cope with satisfactorily and suggested four additional sessions. She also recommended a second ante-natal clinic. To deal with these extra sessions two more nurses and a part-time medical officer would be required. If there were two additional nurses very much more ante-natal care and teaching could be given to the mothers on their district. This under the heading of "Ante-Natal Clinic" has been shown to be of great importance. The opening of the additional sessions would enable small talks to be given to the mothers attending the centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are at present five centres each open one half day per week. The fifth centre at the Young People's Institute, Oldbury Road, has now been open twelve months. Its numbers are increasing slowly.

The Lady Assistant Medical Officer of Health is in attendance at each session and the health visitor for the district is in charge of the centre assisted by a second health visitor and voluntary workers. The

centres continue to grow in size, the average weekly attendance during the year being 370. The names of 1,193 children were added to the rolls during the year, compared with 981 children last year.

Centre.	Day and time of meeting.	Average Attendance		Total
		Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	
1. Rawlings Road ...	Monday, 2 p.m.	57	34	91
2. Devonshire Road ...	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	50	39	89
3. Sydenham Road ...	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	44	27	71
4. 95, Soho Street ...	Thursday, 2 p.m.	62	23	85
5. Oldbury Road ...	Friday, 2 p.m.	20	14	34

The following figures show that there is an increase of breast fed children at every centre except at Rawlings Road.

The proportion of :—

(a) Breast fed children is :—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Rawlings Road ...	45.1%	57.4%	57.0%	57.7%	53.7%
Devonshire Road ...	52.8%	64.2%	65.7%	65.5%	69.8%
Sydenham Road ...	60.7%	53.1%	72.6%	68.7%	77.2%
95, Soho Street ...	57.9%	66.4%	63.1%	57.5%	65.4%
Oldbury Road ...	—	—	—	—	66.6%

(b) Artificially fed children :—

Rawlings Road ...	40.2%	25.9%	19.0%	17.3%	23.3%
Devonshire Road ...	39.4%	20.8%	18.3%	9.2%	9.3%
Sandwell ...	21.7%	29.1%	12.1%	8.1%	8.3%
95, Soho Street ...	29.0%	21.1%	24.4%	35.0%	15.5%
Oldbury Road ...	—	—	—	—	13.4%

(c) Complementary and Supplementary feeding (breast, supplemented by artificial feeding) :—

Rawlings Road ...	14.7%	16.7%	24.0%	25.0%	23.0%
Devonshire Road ...	7.8%	15.0%	16.0%	25.3%	20.9%
Sydenham Road ...	17.6%	17.8%	15.3%	23.2%	14.5%
95, Soho Street ...	13.1%	12.5%	12.5%	7.5%	19.1%
Oldbury Road ...	—	—	—	—	20.0%

Total attendances at the four

Centres ...	11,926	13,744	14,573	15,696	17,289
Pounds of Dried Milk sold ...	22,772	14,542	9,990	12,675	13,210

ROUTINE OF THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

A new system has been introduced to secure order and uniformity in carrying out the examination of the infants and interviewing the mothers. The system is known as the "disc" system. Each mother has to interview the nurse in charge as soon as she enters the centre. If the baby does not require to be seen by the doctor a white disc is given to the mother. If for any reason the baby or mother should be required to see the doctor, the mother is given a copper disc in addition to the white disc. These discs are numbered in consecutive order so that each baby is weighed (white disc) and each mother is interviewed by the doctor (copper disc) in the order in which they arrive at the centre. This system has been found to be very useful in avoiding confusion.

ATTENDANCE.

The mothers bring their babies to the centres very regularly as a whole and manifest the liveliest interest in the weight and general progress of their babies.

BREAST FEEDING.

Most mothers are very anxious to breast feed their infants. The chief trouble is that the mothers as a rule understand little or nothing of the principles underlying successful breast feeding. Unfortunately, immediately any difficulty arises with breast feeding the infant becomes cross and the mother is too apt to interpret this as a sign that her milk is not suiting the baby or that the infant is "not satisfied." This is too frequently the signal for giving up breast feeding and putting the infant on artificial diet. Instruction is given at all the Centres in the art of breast feeding, in the difficulties which may be encountered and the way to overcome them. This instruction is also given at the antenatal clinic and the results are already seen in the increase of the number of mothers breast feeding their infants.

REGULARITY IN FEEDING INFANTS.

One of the cardinal rules in infant feeding is REGULARLY OF FEEDS. Much of the digestive trouble of infants comes from the neglect of this rule. As a result of the teaching and advice given at the Centres mothers are getting more used to this rule with consequent improvement in the health of the infants and the saving of much distress and trouble for the mother. Night feeding is still rather prevalent. Much of this is undoubtedly due to the fact that many of the mothers live in rooms and have to quieten their babies at all costs. The fathers, too, are often to blame as they do not like to have their night's rest disturbed. Under these circumstances a mother who refuses to feed her baby at night has a difficult task to perform.

PROPAGANDA.

Much propaganda work is done at the centres. Suitable leaflets in connection with the prevention of colds, whooping cough, measles, diarrhoea, dummies, etc., and a handbook on infant welfare are dis-

tributed to the mothers. Leaflets on weaning and diet sheets for a baby age nine months, 10 months, 11 months, 12-18 months and 18 months to 2 years, are given as a guide to the mothers. Leaflets urging mothers to protect their children against diphtheria have also been distributed at the Centres. It is hoped that when the Centres are made smaller there will be more success in the number availing themselves of this privilege.

SEWING CLASS.

A sewing class is now held on Tuesday afternoons at the Health Office, 230, High Street, instead of at 95, Soho Street. It was felt that the Health Office would be much more central for all the mothers of Smethwick, 95, Soho Street, being rather a long way from West Smethwick and Bearwood. Patterns of up-to-date baby clothes and clothes for children up to five years are shown at all the Centres and mothers can be taught to make these clothes at the class.

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

Our very best thanks are due to the voluntary workers at the Centres. Their work is of the greatest importance and the running of the Centres would be impossible without their help. They attend most regularly and are always willing to give whatever assistance is required.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN. (Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918).

While there was a still further improvement in the prevailing conditions of unemployment in the town the administration of this scheme has entailed a considerable amount of work in the Department during the year. Grants of milk at reduced price are made to:—

- (a) Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their infants;
- (b) Expectant mothers during the last two months of pregnancy;
- (c) Children up to three years of age;
- (d) Exceptionally to children from 3 to 5 years on the certificate of the doctor;

in cases where the family income (after deducting the amount of the rent) falls below a certain limit.

The quantity supplied does not ordinarily exceed 1 pint per eligible person per day, but in exceptional cases of infants from 3 to 18 months, 1½ pints may be supplied on certificate of the doctor. In certain cases, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer at the Infant Welfare Centres, dried milk is supplied in lieu of fresh milk. Orders are granted for 14 days in the first instance, and applications reviewed every two weeks.

Cases receiving assistance during the year : 323.

Total cost : £316 15s. 3d.

Average cost per case : 19s. 7d.

Average duration of case : 14½ weeks.

“Health Week” and “Baby Week,” 1924.

The activities this year were concentrated chiefly on the schools, with the co-operation of the Education Committee, to whom, and to the headmasters and teachers, we are indebted for much valuable help.

As the Education Committee were contemplating the appointment of a whole-time dental officer, special attention was directed during “Health Week” to preparing the way for the dentist’s activities by laying stress upon the paramount importance of the care of the teeth in early childhood. In the course of an article in the “Smethwick Telephone,” the School Medical Officer outlined the scheme of the dentist’s work, and on October 12th, Mr. W. H. Jones, M.A., L.D.S., the County Dental Officer for Staffordshire addressed an audience of parents and teachers in the Baptist Assembly Hall, under the chairmanship of the Mayor (Alderman G. F. Betts, J.P.).

Addresses to parents were delivered by Dr. Gladys Ainscow and Dr. R. Sandilands each evening during the week in various schools throughout the Borough. The objects of the School Medical Service were explained and the work of the School Clinics dealt with and emphasis was laid on the importance of the parents’ co-operation with the Medical Officers and Nurses in promoting and safe-guarding the health of the children.

The children themselves were interested in the objects of “Health Week” by means of talks in the various schools on “Domestic Sanitation,” given by Mr. J. Dempsey and Mr. J. H. Wright, Inspectors of the Health Department. These talks were illustrated by models and diagrams, and the reception and attention given to the lecturers was decidedly encouraging.

At the Infant Welfare Centres, Competitions for the mothers, on similar lines to those held in previous years, drew a larger number of entries and a better all-round standard of work. We are indebted to the Mayoress (Mrs. G. F. Betts) for the interest she showed in the work of the Centres and for acting as judge for the competitions, etc.

On the 17th October, the Mayoress entertained the midwives practising in the Borough to tea at the Council House, when an address was given by Dr. Gladys Ainscow.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The number of boats inspected was 56, as against 64 in the previous year. Commenting upon the condition of the boats and occupants, I have to report that in this particular, 11 were found to contravene the Acts and Regulations, viz.:—

Certificates not Produced	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	4
Marking	...	...	...	...	2
Painting	...	...	...	...	2
Structural Defects	...	...	...	...	3
Separation of Sexes	...	...	...	...	1

Notices were served in respect of these infringements and all the requirements were complied with. No case of infectious disease occurred, and it was not found necessary to detain any boat for the purpose of cleansing.

REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS.

One of the sources of information as to isolated defective conditions and other insanitary matters in connection with property continues to be furnished by the Complaint Book, in which is entered details of all complaints received. These numbered 392, as compared with 295 for the previous year. Of this number 12 instances of defective water fittings were reported to the S.S. Water Works Co., and in 29 instances matters relative to sewers and streets gullies were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department.

These complaints were in connection with 901 houses. Inspections and enquiries revealed the following defects, which were at once dealt with by the service of the usual notices and the requirements indicated in those notices were complied with.

Cases of overcrowding presented almost insuperable difficulties and, owing to existing conditions, could not always be successfully dealt with.

The following is a list of defects found :—

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	101
Roofs and Eaves Gutters defective	...	...	...	...	167
Yard and W.C. Drains blocked	...	...	...	...	84
Yard Surfaces defective	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	26
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	...	23
Floors, Walls, etc., defective	...	...	...	...	127
W.C.'s without proper flushing arrangements	...	...	...	...	52
Ashbins or Ashplaces defective	...	...	...	...	82
Midden Privies defective	...	...	...	...	5
Water Closets defective	...	...	...	...	50
Waste Water Closets defective	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	37
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	12
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	5
Water Fittings defective	...	...	...	...	8
Breach of Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness	...	...	...	...	12
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	11
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	12
Insufficient Drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

	Visits paid.	Defects found.
Housing	123	446
On Complaint	901	841
Miscellaneous	191	—
Infectious Diseases	322	9
Slaughterhouses	423	—
Meat and Food Shops	328	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	141	—
Pigstyes	10	8
Factories	12	5
Workshops	118	5
Outworkers	110	—
Bakehouses	114	1
Canal Boats	56	14
Ice Cream Vendors	2	—
Markets	113	—
Schools	8	—
Drains Tested	5	5
Smoke Observations	32	—
Visits to Work in Progress ...	233	—
Re-Inspections re Notices served	1,210	—
Visits re Refuse Accommodation	532	281
Re-Visits re Refuse Accommodation	1,847	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,881	1,615
	<hr/>	<hr/>

VARIETY OF DEFECTS.

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	20.
Roofs, Spouting and Eaves Gutters defective	...					256
Yard and W.C. Drains blocked	...	...	...			84
Yard Surfaces defective	...	...	...	...		17
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...			42
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...			24
Floor, Walls, etc., defective	...	...	...	...		228
W.C.'s without proper Flushing Arrangements	...					63
Ashbins and Ashplaces defective	...	...	...			370
Midden Privies defective	...	...	...	...		5
Water Closets defective	...	...	...	...	...	74
Waste Water Closets defective	...	...	...			3
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...				108
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	16
Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance	...	...	...			5
Water Fittings defective	...	...	...	...		8
Breach of Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	38
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...		11
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	12
Insufficient Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	23
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	...	...	...			12
Soft Water Cisterns defective	...	...	...	...		4
Wash-boilers and Settings defective	...	...	...			3

1,615

LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

Letters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1687
Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	552
Secondary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Statutory Notices under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, re Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	579
Housing Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Cleansing Notices re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Factory and Workshop Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Canal Boat Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Circulars	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
							<hr/> 3,283 <hr/>

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Although the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were not in operation during the period covered by this Report, I should like to record that the Health Committee had the question before them at several of their meetings and fully discussed in detail all points in connection therewith. Generally speaking, the butchers and other local tradesmen have acted in a very commendable spirit and rendered useful assistance.

The number of Slaughterhouses on the Register remains the same as in the previous year, viz., 13, of which 5 are registered and the remainder subject to annual license. The visits paid to Slaughterhouses numbered 423, and to meat and other food shops and Public Markets 441.

The following is a summary of the number of animals and carcases examined during the year, giving a total of 1,416:—

	Before Slaughter.	During Slaughter.	After Slaughter.	Total.
Oxen	13	3	194	210
Cows	—	—	13	13
Calves	1	1	27	29
Sheep	34	3	571	608
Pigs	2	1	553	556
	—	—	—	—
	50	8	1,358	1,416
	—	—	—	—

The following were found to be diseased or unsound and were surrendered and destroyed :—

Intestines of Five Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	57 lbs.
Heads of Three Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	43 „
Twenty-four Pig's Cheeks—Decomposition	...	...	...	50 „
Pig's Head and Organs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	38 „
Pig's Head, Lungs and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	36 „
Ox Liver—Abscesses	...	...	...	10 „
Ox Liver and Lungs—Echinococcus	...	...	...	30 „
Ox Head and Lungs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	56 „
One Rabbit—Parasitic Disease	...	...	...	1½ „
Two Pig's Livers—Jaundice	...	...	...	10 „
Calf Carcase and Organs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	115 „
Pig's Carcase and Organs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	192 „
Three Boxes Hake—Decomposition	...	...	...	150 „
Heads and Organs of Two Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	78 „
142 Baskets Bilberries—Decomposition	...	...	...	—
Prawns—Decomposition	...	...	...	8 „
Two tins Corned Beef—Decomposition	...	...	...	12 „
Heads, Frys and Mudgeons of Three Pigs—				
			Tuberculosis	76 „
Pig's Head, Fry and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	70 „
Ox Lungs and Liver—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	20 „
Hake—Unsound	...	...	...	42 „
40 Boxes Tomatoes—Decomposition	...	...	...	420 „
Ox Liver—Abscesses	...	...	...	11 „
Hind Quarter of Beef—Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	66 „
48 Rabbits—Decomposition	...	...	...	96 „

Total 1,697 lbs.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of Dairymen on the Register at the end of the year was 387, as compared with 374 in the previous year. Additional dairymen registered for the sale of milk during the year numbered 14 and there were six changes of occupation of premises in connection therewith, and one was deleted in consequence of having discontinued the sale of milk.

The number of cowsheds is seven.

The visits paid to these premises numbered 141. They were found in a clean condition. On these occasions instructions as to proper storage and cleanliness are always given and attention called to the importance of ventilation and the protection of milk from dust. An improvement has been effected in the manner of storing the milk apart from unsuitable commodities, such as lamp oil and other undesirable articles. I may repeat that, as in previous years, circular letters containing clean milk rules are sent to milk vendors before the approach of the summer season in order to secure extra protection and vigilance against contamination from dirt and flies.

PASTEURISATION OF MILK.

It is noteworthy to report that during the year Messrs. Bray and Bailey put down a modern plant at their premises in Sycamore Road for the purpose of pasteurising milk.

At this Depot they receive on an average about 220 gallons of milk daily, which at present is dealt with as follows:—One hundred and ninety-four gallons are pasteurised, but at present only 80 gallons are bottled for sale to the public. The remaining 114 gallons are sold from churns as ordinary milk, but the demand for the pasteurised milk in bottles steadily increases. Twenty-six gallons are sterilized and bottled.

The premises are quite new and managed in a very cleanly and creditable manner.

During the year 31 samples of milk were submitted for examination as to Bacterial Count and the certified results were satisfactory.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Fourteen samples were submitted to the University Public Health Laboratory and all were certified free from Tubercle Bacilli.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

There were analysed by the Public Analyst 254 samples, as against 283 samples in the previous year. Twenty-seven samples of milk were certified as not genuine, as against 39 in the previous year. All other articles were certified as genuine. The gross per centage of articles returned as not genuine was 10.6 per cent, as against 13.7 per cent. in the foregoing year. As is generally found to be the case, all the samples returned as not genuine were milk. Five prosecutions were instituted, as compared with six in the previous year. In other cases the vendors were cautioned and further attention was devoted to these cases. The total fines and costs was £32 1s. 6d., as compared with £29 14s. 0d. the previous year. Twenty-nine of the milk samples were procured from consignments by rail.

In the accompanying tables will be found a list of the various articles analysed and the prosecutions instituted.

TABLE OF ARTICLES ANALYSED.

Article Analysed.	Total Samples.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
Milk	173	146	27
Butter	24	24	—
Coffee	5	5	—
Margarine	17	17	—
Sago	2	2	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—
Suet	1	1	—
Ground Ginger	1	1	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Cocoa	1	1	—
Lard	5	5	—
Condensed Milk	1	1	—
Vinegar	1	1	—
Rice	1	1	—
Sweet Spirits of Nitre	1	1	—
Gin	1	1	—
Whiskey	1	1	—
Flour	2	2	—
Bread	1	1	—
Tinned Peas	1	1	—
Sponge Cakes	1	1	—
Polony	1	1	—
Sauce	1	1	—
Sausage	1	1	—
Black Currant Jam	1	1	—
Cream	2	2	—
Preserved Cream	2	2	—
Golden Syrup	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—
Tapioca	1	1	—
Bloater Paste	1	1	—
	<u>254</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>27</u>

TABLE OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, FOR THE YEAR 1923.

Date of Purchase.	Sample No.	Deficiency.	Results.	Penalty. £ s. d.	Costs. £ s. d.
5.2.24.	3866	10% Fat	Dismissed (Warranty)	—	5 6
15.7.24.	3968	13.33% Fat	Convicted	2 0 0	15 0
18.7.24.	3979	13.33% Fat	Convicted	2 0 0	15 0
18.12.24.	4081	9.41% Solids-not-Fat.	Convicted	10 0 0	3 3 0
23.12.24.	4085	3.41% Solids-not-Fat.	Convicted	10 0 0	3 3 0
Total fines and costs				<u>£24 0 0</u>	<u>£8 1 6</u>

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS,
1912 and 1917.

REPORT for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

1. MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

	Milk.	Cream.
Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative	173	2
Number in which Preservatives was reported to be present, and the percentage of Preservative found in each sample ...	Nil.	Nil.

2. CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct:—

(1) Correct statements made	2
(2) Incorrect Statements	—
	2
	—

(3) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample:—

Sample No. 4070—0.32 % Boric Acid.

„ „ 4071—0.38 % „ „

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream:—

(i) Above 35 per cent.	2
(ii) Below 35 per cent.	—
	2
	—

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements with regard to labelling and declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed Nil.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken Nil.

3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream ... Nil.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

The number of Bakehouses on the Register is 33. These have been regularly visited, and, generally speaking, were found in a clean and satisfactory state. With the exception of one or two instances the sanitary requirements as to limewashing, ventilation and cleanliness have been well observed. In two instances notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, requesting that certain premises should be limewashed and other minor details carried out,

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The visits paid to Factories and Workshops and work places, numbered 244, and in addition 110 visits were paid to Outworkers' premises.

Seven notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in respect of certain workshops and factories relative to limewashing and the provision of separate water closets. Special visits were paid and the defects remedied.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factories Laundries)	12	7	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	224	1	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	8	7	—
TOTAL	244	15	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars, (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	1 4 4	1 4 4	— — —	— — —
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	15	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

All premises, where outbreaks of infectious disease have occurred, are at once visited to ascertain the source of infection, to enquire as to the sanitary condition of the premises, the employment of the working members of the family, the schools attended by the children, and to give such general verbal instructions as are necessary. There is also delivered to the parents or guardians printed abstracts of Section 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and Sections 7 and 13 of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1891, in order to inform them of their legal responsibilities. In all cases disinfection of the patients' rooms and articles of bedding, clothing, etc., are systematically carried out. In a considerable number of instances the stripping, limewashing and cleansing of such rooms was also required.

The number of lots of bedding removed for disinfection was 443, comprising 3,368 articles. The total number of disinfections was 493. The following is a classified list of the various premises disinfected:—

Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	112
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	132
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	156
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	57
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	7
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	4
						<hr/> 493 <hr/>

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total, 50 ("subsidy houses").

(b) As part of the municipal housing scheme, Nil.

NOTE.—In addition to above 20 houses were erected as part of the Smethwick Municipal Housing Scheme in the OLDBURY district.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,611
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910)	123
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	122

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	459
---	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	122
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) By Owners	75*
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	701
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) By owners	649
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	41

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1924.

Cause of Death.	All Ages	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 Up.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I.—GENERAL DISEASES.															
Measles	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	12	1	5	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	7	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	22	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	3	6	1	1	1	5
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Septicæmia	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5	8	9	5	2	4	3
Acute Miliary Tuberculosis	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	4	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Peritoneum.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of spinal column.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of joints.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of other organs.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Disseminated Tuberculosis.....	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer of the Buccal Cavity	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer of the Stomach, Liver, etc.	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	5	3	6
Cancer of the Peritoneum, Intestines and Rectum.....	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	6	1	6
Cancer of the Female Genital Organs	15	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	4	..	4
Cancer of the Breast	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	1	..
Cancer of the Skin	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Cancer of Other Organs	18	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	5	1	6
Other Tumours	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rheumatic Fever	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Chronic Rheumatism	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes.....	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Exophthalmic Goitre	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anæmia, Chlorosis.....	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purpura.....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lead Poisoning ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
II.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.															
Meningitis	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Locomotor Ataxy.....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of the Spinal Cord	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	8	5
Paralysis	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
General Paralysis of the Insane	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other forms of Mental Alienation	3	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	1	1	..
Epilepsy	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Convulsions with Teething.....	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	..
Chorea	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	..
Diseases of the Ears.....	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
III.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.															
Pericarditis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Endocarditis	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..
Valvular Disease of Heart	27	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	5	4
Fatty Degeneration of the Heart	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	6
Other Organic Disease of the Heart	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	6	5	19
Angina Pectoris	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Aneurysm	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arterial Sclerosis	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	5	6
Other diseases of the Arteries.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Cerebral Embolism & Thrombosis	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	2
IV.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.															
Diseases of the Thyroid Body...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	72	6	7	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	3	1	4	3	11
Broncho-Pneumonia	53	7	19	7	7	..	2	1	..	..	1	2	1	1	2
Lobar Pneumonia	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia (Type not stated) ..	11	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	1	2	1	1
Pleurisy	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	1	..	..
Pulmonary Congestion.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
V.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.															
Perforating Ulcer of Stomach.....	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..
Inflammation of the Stomach ..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Infective Enteritis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Enteritis	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastro-Enteritis	6	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dyspepsia.....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis	7	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Hernia	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Intestinal Obstruction	7	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	..
Other Diseases of the Intestines ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Biliary Calculi	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other Diseases of Liver	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
VI.—DISEASES OF THE GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM.															
Acute Nephritis	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Bright's Disease	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	4	1	5
Calculi of the Urinary Passages...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1			

